

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS**

IN RE: STRYKER LFIT V40 FEMORAL
HEAD PRODUCTS LIABILITY
LITIGATION

MDL No. 17-md-2768-IT

MDL ORDER NO. 13

This Document Relates to:

**ORDER ESTABLISHING
COMMON BENEFIT FEE AND
EXPENSE FUNDS**

All Cases

I. SCOPE OF THE ORDER

This Order is entered to provide for the fair and equitable sharing among Plaintiffs and their counsel of the burden of services performed and expenses incurred by attorneys acting for the common benefit of all Plaintiffs in this complex litigation.

A. Governing Principles- The Common Benefit Doctrine

The governing principles are derived from the United States Supreme Court's common benefit doctrine, as established in *Trustees v. Greenough*, 105 U.S. 527 (1881); refined in, *inter alia*, *Central Railroad & Banking Co. v. Pettus*, 113 U.S. 116 (1884); *Sprague v. Ticonic National Bank*, 307 U.S. 161 (1939); *Mills v. Electric Auto-Lite Co.*, 396 U.S. 375 (1970); *Boeing Co. v. Van Gemert*, 444 U.S. 472 (1980), and approved and implemented in the MDL context in, *inter alia*, *In re MGM Grand Hotel Fire Litigation*, 660 F. Supp. 522, 525-29 (D. Nev. 1987); and *In re Air Crash Disaster at Florida Everglades on December 29, 1972*, 549 F.2d 1006, 1019-21 (5th Cir. 1977).

B. Application

Unless otherwise ordered or agreed, this Order applies to: (1) each attorney and their law firm who represents a plaintiff with a case now pending in or later filed in, transferred to, or removed to this Court, regardless of whether the attorney also has cases outside the MDL (filed or unfiled) (“The MDL Plaintiffs’ Counsel”); (2) each attorney and their law firm who represents plaintiffs who participate in the Confidential Settlement referenced in this Court’s November 2, 2018 Order Aiding Private Settlement (the “Confidential Settlement Counsel”). This Order does not apply to cases resolved prior to the entry of this order.

II. PLAINTIFFS’ LITIGATION FEE AND EXPENSE FUNDS

A. Establishing the Fee and Expense Funds

Archer Systems, L.L.C. (“Archer” or the “Settlement Administrator”), the Settlement Administrator identified in this Court’s November 2, 2018 Order Aiding Private Settlement, will receive the Settlement Amount funds from Defendant pursuant to the Confidential Settlement Agreement and will place said funds into a Qualified Settlement Fund. Said Qualified Settlement Fund will have three interest-bearing sub-accounts – the first for the majority of the gross Settlement Amount to be distributed to the claimants through their counsel in accordance with the Confidential Settlement Agreement and as directed by the Settlement Oversight Committee (the “SOC”) and the second and third sub-accounts to receive and disburse funds as provided in this Order. One sub-account shall be

designated the “V40 Common Benefit Fee Fund” and the other common benefit sub-account shall be designated the “V40 Common Benefit Expense Fund” (the “Funds”). The Common Benefit Expense Fund may be used to pay the ongoing administrative costs billed by the Settlement Administrator following review and approval by the SOC. All other funds will be held subject to the direction and further Order of the Court. No party or attorney has any individual right to any of these funds except to the extent of amounts directed to be disbursed to such person by Order of the Court. These funds do not constitute the separate property of any party or attorney and are not subject to garnishment or attachment for the debts of any party or attorney, except as directed to be disbursed to a specific person as provided by Order of the Court.

The Settlement Administrator shall keep detailed records of all deposits and withdrawals and prepare tax returns and other tax filings.

B. Fee and Expense Funds: The Assessment

All cases in which MDL Plaintiffs’ Counsel or Confidential Settlement Counsel, as set forth in section I(B), have agreed, for monetary consideration, to settle, compromise, or dismiss their case, with or without trial, or where MDL Plaintiffs’ Counsel or Confidential Settlement Counsel recover a judgment for monetary damages or other monetary relief with respect to products liability claims directly involving allegations of a defect in an LFIT V40 Cobalt Chromium Femoral Head are subject to an assessment of the “Gross Monetary Recovery” as set forth below.

1. Gross Monetary Recovery

“Gross Monetary Recovery” includes any and all amounts paid by Defendant as settlement or judgment. In measuring the Gross Monetary Recovery, the parties are to include: (a) the cost to Defendant to provide any fixed and certain payments to be made in the future; (b) the fair market value of and/or costs to Defendant for any other relief provided by Defendant; and (c) any payments that were made, or in the future are to be made, by Defendant on an intervention asserted by third-parties, such as physicians, hospitals, or other healthcare providers in subrogation related to treatment of the specific Plaintiff, unless said payments were made by Defendant and no attorney fees were received by Plaintiffs’ counsel for that payment.

2. Assessment Amount

The assessment amount shall be four percent (4%) for common benefit attorney fees and two percent (2%) for common benefit costs from the date of entry of this order (hereinafter collectively referred to as the “Assessment”).

The common benefit attorney fees have no effect on the amount the client shall receive as they are always deducted from the private attorney’s contingent fee. Conversely, the common benefit costs shall always be deducted from the client’s settlement proceeds.

3. Payment of the Assessment

For cases included in the Confidential Settlement, Defendant will deposit the gross Settlement Amount funds with the Settlement Administrator pursuant to the terms of the

Confidential Settlement. Archer will hold back the common benefit fees and costs as set forth in Section II(A) & II(B)(1-2), and will not disburse the held-back monies without further order of the Court.

For other cases subject to this order, MDL Plaintiffs' Counsel shall forward the Assessments to Archer Systems to be held until further order of the Court.

4. Defendant's Obligations

a. General Defendant Obligations

Defendant shall have no obligations to directly fund any Assessment under this Order if the individual plaintiffs' counsel certifies that the individual matter at issue: (i) has been resolved through the Confidential Settlement; (ii) is acknowledged by the individual plaintiffs' counsel to be subject to this Order; or (iii) is excluded from this Order pursuant to Section I(B).

b. Defendant's Obligations with Regard to Disputes

For all matters not identified in Section II(B)(3), Defendant and its counsel shall not distribute to any plaintiff or plaintiffs' counsel proceeds from a settlement covered by this Order until the Defendant's counsel notifies retired Magistrate Judge Diane M. Welsh, Co-Lead of the MDL ("Co-Lead Counsel"), State Court Liaison, and the individual plaintiffs' counsel in writing of the existence of a settlement, the name of the plaintiff and individual plaintiffs' counsel, and the court in which the matter was filed (if applicable). Following receipt such notice from Defendant's Counsel, Judge Welsh shall confer with appropriate

counsel as set forth in Section II(B)(5). Defendant and its counsel may distribute covered settlement proceeds to the individual plaintiffs' counsel once the process set forth in Section II(B)(5) is complete.

c. Defendant's Reporting Obligations for Matters Resolved Outside of the Confidential Settlement

Unless otherwise agreed, Defendant's counsel shall provide quarterly notice to the Plaintiffs' Administrative Counsel of all cases from the prior quarter that were resolved outside of the Confidential Settlement and are subject to the Assessment. Such notice shall include the name of the plaintiff and individual plaintiffs' counsel, and docket number (if applicable). The reports will not include the amount of the Assessment or the individual settlement amounts. A report is not due if no matters are subject to the Assessment during that quarter.

5. Applying the Assessment in Disputed Matters

Within seven (7) days of receipt of a notice by Defendant as set forth in Section II(B)(3), Judge Welsh shall confer with the Co-Lead Counsel, State Court Liaison and, if necessary, individual plaintiffs' counsel in the disputed matter in an effort to reach a consensus as to whether the case is subject to Assessment. At no time during this process shall the settlement amount be released to Co-Lead Counsel or State Court Liaison.

It is expected that, after this conferral process, in most cases the respective court appointed chairs and the individual plaintiffs' counsel will agree as to whether or not a case

is subject to the Assessment and shall then advise, in writing, Judge Welsh, Defendant's counsel, and the individual plaintiffs' counsel. At that time, if subject to the Assessment, then the individual plaintiffs' counsel shall promptly pay the Assessment directly into the Funds without disclosing the settlement amount, and with a copy to Defendant's counsel, Co-Lead Counsel, and the State Court Liaison of such communication with the Funds.

6. Individual Plaintiffs' Counsel Obligations

For cases that are subject to an Assessment as set forth in this Order, but are not included in the Confidential Settlement, the individual plaintiffs' counsel must: (i) provide Defendant's counsel with a certification as set forth in Section II(B)(3); and (ii) promptly pay the Assessment directly into the Funds without disclosing the settlement amount, and with a copy to Defendant's counsel of such communication with the Funds.

7. Settlement Administrator's Obligations

For all cases that have elected to participate in the Confidential Settlement, the application and payment of the Assessment shall be processed by the Settlement Administrator (Archer) identified in this Court's November 2, 2018 Order Aiding Private Settlement. Archer shall hold back the Assessments from Confidential Settlements in a Qualified Settlement Account ("QSF") account .

8. Confidentiality of Individual Settlements

Details of any individual confidential settlement agreement, including the individual settlement amount, shall be kept confidential by Judge Welsh and the individual plaintiffs' counsel and shall not be disclosed as part of the processes set forth herein.

III. COMMON BENEFIT EXPENSES

A. Qualified Expenses Eligible for Reimbursement

In order to be eligible for reimbursement of common benefit expenses, the expenses must meet the requirements of this section. Specifically, in order to be a reimbursable expense, the expense must be: (i) for the common benefit and not for the individual plaintiffs' cases; (ii) appropriately authorized by the PEC, as set forth herein, and timely submitted; (iii) within the defined limitations set forth in this Order; (iv) verified; and (v) approved by the Court. At a later date after the individual settlement funds have been distributed pursuant to the Confidential Settlement Agreement, the SOC shall submit to the court a well-documented request for reimbursement of Qualified Expenses from the Common Benefit Expense Fund.

B. Expenses Incurred for the Common Benefit

Expenses incurred for the common benefit and not for the individual plaintiffs' cases may be Shared Costs or Held Costs as set forth in this subsection.

1. Shared Costs

Shared Costs are costs incurred for the common benefit of the MDL as a whole. Shared Costs are costs that are paid out of the separate Stryker MDL PSC Fund account that has already been established by the PEC and funded by all members of the PEC, PSC and others determined by the PEC and its designation subcommittees. All Shared Costs must be approved by the PEC prior to payment. Shared Costs include: (i) certain court filing and service costs, if the filing and service of the materials were MDL materials, including for bellwether cases, and not those associated with a unique case; (ii) deposition and court reporter costs for non-case specific depositions and other certain bellwether case costs at the discretion of the PEC; (iii) document depository costs, including creation, operation, equipment, and administration, and costs attendant to training; (iv) PEC and PSC administrative expenses (*e.g.*, expenses for equipment, technology, courier services, long distance, telecopier, electronic service, photocopy, and printing); (v) PEC and PSC group administration matters such as meetings and conference calls; (vi) accountants' fees; (vii) fees and expenses paid to expert witnesses and consultants retained by the MDL to work on behalf of the MDL; (viii) printing, copying, coding, scanning (by approved outside vendors); (ix) research and other work by outside third-party vendors/consultants/attorneys retained by the PEC to assist in the common prosecution and administration of these actions including medical summaries of bellwether cases and claim review; (x) common witness expenses including travel; (xi) translation costs; (xii) bank and financial institution charges; (xiii) investigative services and costs; and (xiv) costs

attendant to the settlement process, including mediation fees (JAMS), ethics counsel fees, and insurance.

2. Held Costs

Held Costs are those that will be carried by Plaintiffs' Counsel and reimbursed when determined by the PEC and this Court to be authorized costs that are yet unreimbursed. Held Costs are costs incurred for the global benefit of the MDL. Contributions made to the Stryker MDL PSC Fund shall be reimbursable at the conclusion of the litigation or at such time as otherwise may be determined by a majority of the PEC. Held Costs are those that do not fall into the above Shared Costs categories but are incurred for the benefit of all Plaintiffs in general. No specific client-related costs, except for bellwether discovery and trial costs, may be considered as Held Costs. All costs of a substantial nature that meet these requirements and fall under the categories set forth below shall be considered Held Costs and qualify to be submitted for consideration by the Fee Committee and the Court for future reimbursement from the V40 Common Benefit Expense Fund.

C. Authorization and Submission

The forms and records detailing both time and expenses will be subject to periodic review by SOC members Peter J. Flowers and Walter Kelley and Administrative Counsel Ashleigh Raso. Additionally, some expenses and time, as detailed below will require the pre-approval of the above named individuals.

D. Expense Limitations

1. Travel Limitations

Only reasonable expenses will be reimbursed. Except in extraordinary circumstances approved by the PEC and Administrative Counsel, all travel reimbursements are subject to the following limitations:

- a. **Airfare.** Reasonable and appropriate airfare will be reimbursed and is subject to audit and review. Airfare deemed to be excessive or which is not related to an assigned task or judicial requirement will not be reimbursed. Only the lowest price available coach airfare at time of booking (at rates which allow the reservation to be rebooked without surcharge and other agency fees) for a reasonable itinerary will be reimbursed. Business/First Class Airfare will not be fully reimbursed, except for international flights, which require prior written approval by the PEC by writing to Administrative Counsel. Airfare expense submissions must be supported by invoice or receipt for airfare that shows class of airfare purchased, name of traveler, and destination. If first class is flown and only coach fare is reimbursable, proof of applicable coach fare must be provided.
- b. **Hotel.** Reasonable and appropriate hotel accommodations will be reimbursed, such as prevailing room rates available for Marriott, Hilton, Westin, the hotels most proximate to the courthouse including the Envoy, and similar hotel brands. Hotel accommodations deemed to be excessive or which are not related to an assigned task or judicial requirement will not be reimbursed. Hotel expense submissions must be supported by a hotel issued receipt.
- c. **Meals.** Meal expenses must be reasonable. Meal expense submissions must be supported by receipts or credit card statements that reflect the date and those partaking in the meal. No expenses related to alcohol charges will be permitted.
- d. **Case Expenses.** Miscellaneous cash expenses for which receipts generally are not available (tips, luggage handling, pay telephone, etc.) will be reimbursed up to \$30.00 per trip, as long as the expenses are properly itemized.

- e. **Rental Automobiles.** Luxury automobile rentals will not be fully reimbursed, unless only luxury automobiles were available. If luxury automobiles are selected when non-luxury vehicles are available, then the difference between the luxury and non-luxury vehicle rates must be shown on the travel reimbursement form, and only the non-luxury rate may be claimed, unless such larger sized vehicle is needed to accommodate several counsel or materials necessary to be transported to a deposition or trial. Rental automobile expense submissions must be supported by receipts or credit card statements. Such rentals are limited to travel pursuant to an assigned or required task related to this litigation.
- f. **Mileage.** Mileage claims must be documented by stating origination point, destination, total actual miles for each trip, and the rate per mile paid by the member's firm. The maximum allowable rate will be the maximum rate allowed by the IRS.

2. Non-Travel Limitations

- a. **Long Distance, Conference Call and Cellular Telephone Charges.** Common benefit long distance, conference call and cellular telephone charges must be documented as individual call expenses in order to be compensable. Copies of the telephone bills must be submitted with notations as to which charges relate to the MDL litigation. Such charges are to be reported at actual cost.
- b. **Shipping, Overnight, Courier, and Delivery Charges.** All claimed common benefit shipping, overnight, courier or delivery expenses must be documented with bills showing the sender, origin of the package, recipient, and destination of the package. Such charges are to be reported at actual cost.
- c. **Postage Charges.** A contemporaneous postage log or other supporting documentation must be maintained and submitted for common benefit postage charges. Such charges are to be reported at actual cost.
- d. **Telefax Charges.** Contemporaneous records should be maintained and submitted showing faxes sent and received for common benefit matters. The per-fax charge must not exceed \$.50 per page.
- e. **In-House Photocopy.** A contemporaneous photocopy log or other supporting documentation must be maintained and submitted. The maximum copy charge is 10¢ per page for black and white copies and 20¢ per page for color copies.

- f. **Computerized Research- Lexis/Westlaw.** Claims for Lexis or Westlaw, and other computerized legal research expenses should be in the exact amount charged the firm and appropriately allocated for these research services.

E. Verification

The forms detailing expenses must be certified by a member of the PSC in each firm attesting to the accuracy of the submissions. Attorneys must keep receipts for all expenses. Credit card receipts are an appropriate form of verification so long as accompanied by a declaration from counsel that work was performed and paid for the common benefit.

F. Costs or Expenses in Excess of Amounts Available in the Expenses Fund

To the extent the V40 Common Benefit Expense Fund or the V40 Common Benefit Fee Fund are insufficient to appropriately address or reimburse common benefit expenses and time, the Court may equitably apportion the amounts in either fund to the other as is just and appropriate.

IV. COMMON BENEFIT WORK

A. Overview of Common Benefit Work

Only Counsel authorized [hereinafter Authorized Counsel] by the PEC are eligible for reimbursement for time and efforts expended for the common benefit. Authorized Counsel shall be eligible for reimbursement for time and efforts expended for common benefit work, if said time and efforts are (a) for the common benefit, (b) appropriately authorized, as set forth herein, (c) timely submitted, and (d) approved by this Court.

B. Common Benefit Work Product Defined

Common Benefit Work Product includes, but is not limited to drafting and negotiation of form complaints, case questionnaire, plaintiff and defendant fact sheet and written discovery demands, work associated with the Crivella West system/electronic depository, review and document coding, custodial witness summaries, timelines, law and briefing work, materials provided to experts, expert retention, depositions of liability witnesses and generic experts, the deposition cuts that may be used in a case, the trial exhibit preparation, the scientific articles assembled, PSC, PLC, Administrative Counsel and PEC activities, work of lead or liaison counsel in the New Jersey Coordinated Proceedings and any other state court proceeding, and such work is approved in accordance with this order, Discovery, Science and Law Committee work, expert development authorized by the PEC, authorized state and federal court trials, and company and generic expert depositions in state or federal court. Common Benefit Work also includes approved work in negotiating, drafting and implementing any type of aggregate, global settlement or settlement matrix and process in the event such a settlement is reached.

C. Authorization for Compensable Common Benefit Work

Authorized Common Benefit Work includes assignments made by the PEC. With the exception of the initial Bellwether trial pool, no time spent on developing or processing

purely individual issues in any case for an individual client (claimant) will be considered or should be submitted, nor will time spent on any unauthorized work be compensated.

1. Common Benefit Work

Examples of authorized common benefit work include but are not limited to:

- a. **Depositions:** Authorized Counsel may attend any deposition, space permitting; however, if such counsel has not been designated as one of the authorized questioners or otherwise authorized to attend the deposition by Co-Lead Counsel, the time and expenses will not be considered common benefit work, but rather considered as attending on behalf of such counsel's individual clients.
- b. **Periodic MDL Update Conference Calls or E-mails:** Update calls or e-mails are held so that individual attorneys are kept up-to-date on the status of the litigation, and participation by listening to such calls or reading and responding to such emails, are not common benefit work. All attorneys have an obligation to keep themselves informed about the litigation so that they can best represent their clients. The attorneys designated by the Co-Lead Counsel to run those calls or send out update e-mails are working for the common benefit by keeping other lawyers informed and educated about the case, and their time will be considered for common benefit. Nothing in this paragraph should be construed to prevent members of the PSC from submitting common benefit time for participation in PSC communications that are germane to all members of the PSC and are necessary to fulfill their PSC obligations.
- c. **Status Conferences:** Regular status conferences are held so that the litigation continues to move forward and legal issues are resolved with the Court. Individual attorneys are free to attend any status conference held in open court in order to keep up-to-date on the status of the litigation and participation, but attending and listening to such conferences is not common benefit work for counsel other than members of the Executive Committee, or PSC if the PSC member handled an issue that is the subject of the status conference. All attorneys have an obligation to keep themselves informed about the litigation so that they can best represent their clients. Mere attendance

at a status conference will not be considered a common benefit expense or common benefit time. The attorneys designated by the Co-Lead Counsel to address issues that will be raised at a given status conference or requested by the Co-Lead Counsel to be present at a status conference are working for the common benefit and their time will be considered for common benefit. Similarly, Co-Lead Counsel, as well as any other attorney whose attendance at a status conference is specifically requested by the Judge in that case may submit their time for evaluation as common benefit time.

- d. **Committee Meetings or Calls:** For purposes of committee phone calls or other meetings, a presumption exists that only one participant per firm will qualify for common benefit time, unless otherwise authorized by the Co-Lead Counsel.
- e. **Identification and Work Up of Experts:** Authorized Counsel are expected to identify experts in consultation with the Co-Lead Counsel. If an Authorized Counsel travels to and retains an expert without the knowledge and approval of the Co-Lead Counsel, that attorney understands that the MDL may not need or use that expert and the attorney's time and expenses may not be eligible for common benefit expenses/work.
- f. **Attendance at Seminars:** Mere attendance at a seminar does not qualify as common benefit work or a common benefit expense unless the individual is attending at the direction of Co-Lead Counsel and for the benefit of the MDL.
- g. **Document Review:** Only document review specifically authorized by the Co-Lead Counsel for the MDL and assigned to an attorney will be considered common benefit work. The review done in a designated attorney's office will be performed by appropriately trained individuals selected by the attorney. If a reviewer elects to review documents that have not been assigned to that attorney by the Co-Lead Counsel for the MDL, that review is not considered common benefit. Counsel will receive periodic reports from the vendor retained to manage the electronic production of computer billing time for depository review. Such Vendor should have the capability to track actual time spent by each attorney reviewing documents. Authorized Counsel should bring any discrepancy to the attention of the Co-Lead Counsel or its designee within thirty (30) days of receipt of the Vendor's report. Failure to timely bring any claimed discrepancy to the attention of the Co-Lead Counsel will result in the compensable

document review time being presumptively deemed that which was electronically logged by Vendor. A Fee Committee at the appropriate time will review all fee submissions related to document review, and document review that is duplicative of what has been assigned in the MDL may not be compensated.

- h. **Review of Pleadings and Orders:** All attorneys have an obligation to keep themselves informed about the litigation so that they can best represent their clients, and review of pleadings and orders is part of that obligation. Only those attorneys designated by the Co-Lead Counsel to review or summarize those pleadings or orders for the MDL are working for the common benefit and their time will be considered for common benefit. All other counsel reviewing those pleadings and orders are doing so for their own benefit and the benefit of their own clients, and the review is not considered common benefit. Nothing in this paragraph should be construed to prevent the Executive Committee, Administrative Counsel and the PSC from submitting common benefit time for reviewing orders of the Court that are germane to all members of the PSC and are necessary for review to fulfill their committee or court appointed obligations.
- i. **Emails:** Time recorded for reviewing emails, and providing non substantive responses, generally is not compensable unless germane to a specific task being performed by the receiving or sending attorney or party that is directly related to that email. Thus, for example, review of an email sent to dozens of attorneys to keep them informed on a matter on which they are not specifically working would not be compensable. All attorneys have an obligation to keep themselves informed about the litigation so that they can best represent their clients and that is a reason to review emails to a larger group which involves a matter on which the recipient is not directly and immediately working. If time submissions are heavy on email review and usage with little related substantive work, that time may be heavily discounted or not compensated at all.
- j. **Review of Discovery Responses:** All attorneys have an obligation to keep themselves informed about the litigation so that they can best represent their clients and that is a reason to review discovery responses served in this litigation. Only those attorneys designated by the Co-Lead Counsel to review and summarize those discovery responses for the MDL are working for the common benefit and their time will be considered for common benefit. All other counsel reviewing those discovery responses for their own benefit and the

benefit of their own clients, and the review is not considered common benefit.

- k. **Bellwether Trials:** While the work-up of individual cases is not considered common benefit, in the event that a case is selected as part of an approved early preference or bellwether trial process in the MDL (including work performed as part of the approved bellwether process) may be considered for common benefit to the extent it complies with other provisions of this Agreed Order.
- l. **Paralegal Work:** Work performed by paralegals will be subject to all the same procedures and requirements set forth in this Order as that performed by attorneys.

In the event Plaintiffs' Counsel are unsure if the action they are about to undertake is considered a common benefit action, counsel must ask the PEC through Administrative Counsel in advance as to whether such time may be compensable or it may not be compensable.

D. Time Keeping and Submission of Time Records

All time must be authorized and accurately and contemporaneously maintained. Time must be kept according to these guidelines as noted herein and submitted to Administrative Counsel on the last day of every odd month. Authorized Counsel must keep a daily record of their time spent in connection with common benefit work on this litigation, indicating with specificity the hours, location and particular activity (i.e. "conducted deposition of Jane Doe"). Time entries that are not sufficiently detailed may not be considered for common benefit payments. All common benefit work time for each firm must be maintained in tenth-of-an-hour increments.

The following must be noted:

1. All time submissions must be incurred only for work authorized under this agreed Order.
2. All time submissions must be made directly to Administrative Counsel.
3. Individual entries should have a specific task code in accordance with the Litigation Task Definitions associated with the time.
4. All time and expenses are subject to proper and timely submissions every odd month. Beginning February 28, 2019, submissions must be made for all time incurred prior to the entry of this Agreed Order.
5. All expenses submissions must include receipts for all expenses, or if a receipt is not available, an affidavit outlining the details of the expense.
6. Plaintiffs' Lead Counsel in both the MDL and New Jersey will cooperatively share and maintain the data submitted to Administrative Counsel with the PEC. It is therefore essential that every other month, each firm timely submits its records for the preceding period.
7. **Untimely Submissions:** Failure to provide time and expense records on a bi-monthly basis as set forth herein will result in a waiver of same unless a specific extension is granted in writing prior to the due date by co-lead Counsel.

E. Distributions of Common Benefit Fees and Expenses

1. Procedure and Forms

Procedures for time and expenses submissions are provided by Administrative Counsel. Further instruction regarding time and expense submission will be given by Administrative Counsel. Only the form approved by the PEC will be accepted for keeping time.

2. Court Approval

The amounts deposited in the Funds to be created in accordance with this order shall be available for distribution to Authorized Counsel who have performed professional services or incurred expenses for the common benefit at the appropriate time. No amounts will be disbursed without review and approval by the Court or such other mechanism as the Court may order. A Fee and Expense Committee may be appointed by the Court at the appropriate time to consider eligible common benefit work and expenses whether performed in federal court or in any of the state court jurisdictions in making its recommendations. The fee and expense committee shall make a recommendation to Judge Talwani regarding distribution of Common Benefit Fees and Costs. Regardless of the recommendation, this Court retains sole jurisdiction and discretion in distributing Common Benefit Fees and Expenses other than the ongoing administrative expenses of Archer which will be scrutinized and approved or disapproved by the SOC on an ongoing basis.

Specifically, such sums shall be distributed only upon order of the Court in MDL 17-2768. This Court retains jurisdiction over any common benefit award and, in furtherance of state-federal cooperation, may receive input from the state court judges. Each Authorized Counsel who does common benefit work has the right to present his or her claim(s) for compensation to the Court prior to recommendation or determination as to distribution.

The Court directs the Clerk to file a copy of this Order in the Master Docket and the Order will apply to each member related case previously transferred to, removed to, or filed in this district. In cases subsequently filed in or transferred to this district and related to this MDL, a copy of the most recent pretrial order, the Order Aiding Private Settlement, and this Order will be filed by the Clerk in each such action at the time the case is related to the MDL. It is the responsibility of counsel and parties to review and abide by this and all pretrial orders previously entered by the Court. The orders may be accessed through PACER, or you can receive a copy by emailing Administrative Counsel at araso@meshbesher.com.

SO ORDERED this 1st day of February, 2019.

Indira Talwani
United States District Judge